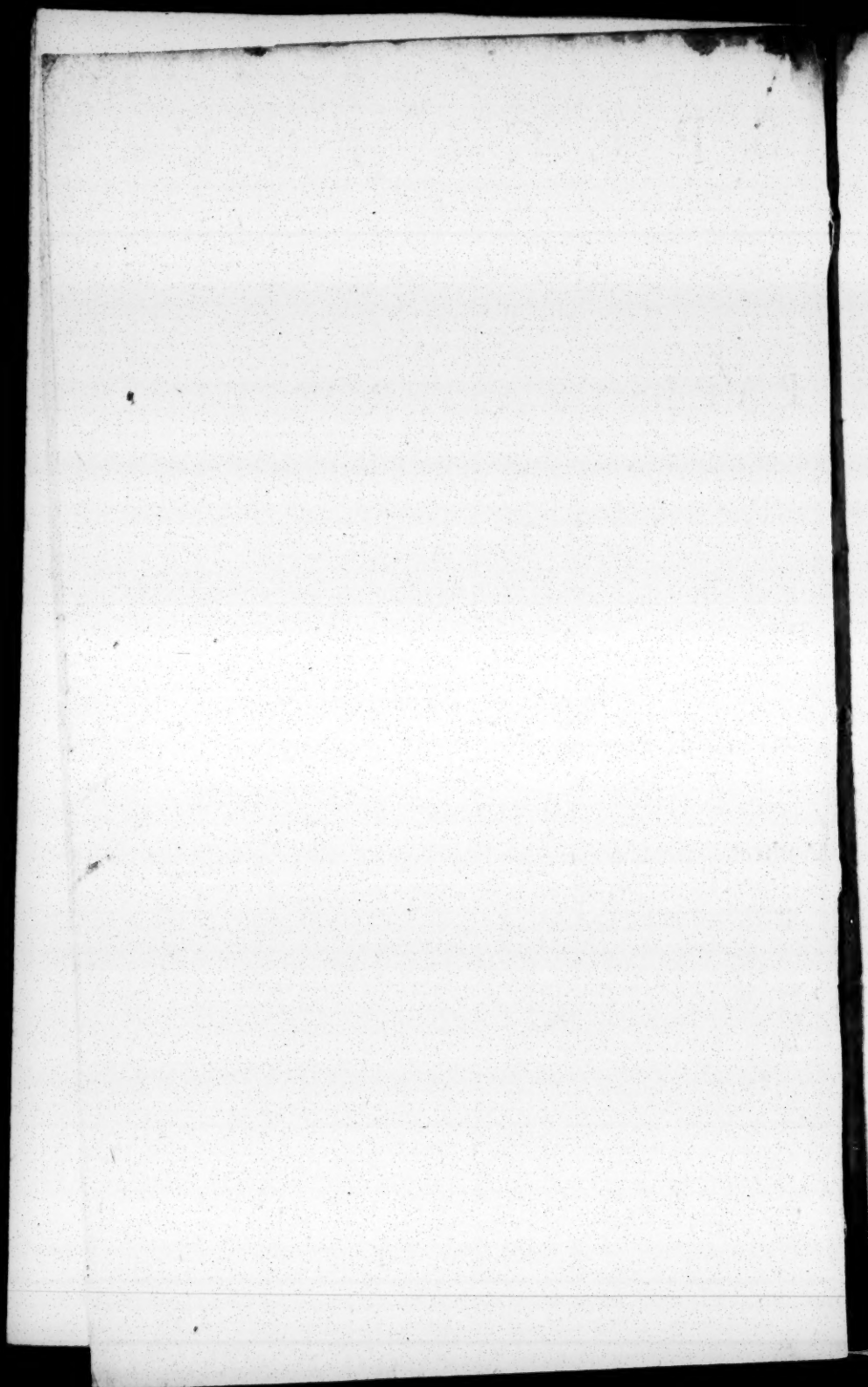


A
SPECIMEN
OF THE
UNRELENTING CRUELTY
OF
PAPISTS in FRANCE,
AND
The unshaken FAITH and PATIENCE
OF THE
PROTESTANTS of that Kingdom;
Now entering upon the
Seventieth Year of their PERSECUTIONS.

Extracted from
Authentic accounts, received at the beginning of the
year 1755; serving as an APPENDIX to Annals, &c.
published in 1753.

1 Pet. iv. 12, 13. *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you; as tho' some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice in as much as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, &c.*

L O N D O N printed:
E D I N B U R G H, reprinted by T. Lumisden and
Company; sold by Messrs Trail, Gray and Peter.
M.DCC.LV.



A P P E N D I X

TO ANNALS of the rise, progress, and persecutions of the reformed churches in France.

Dear SIR,

July 9. 1755.

B EING favoured by a friend with extracts from several French letters, (received from France, within some months past) wrote by Protestants that are in the furnace of persecution, I have endeavoured to draw up a succinct account of their heightened sorrows in the months under-mentioned. The perusal, Sir, will, I am persuaded, greatly move your generous Christian breast, and lead to endeavour a spread of Sympathy for the Dear Sufferers, wide as your influence, and to draw from others, what so naturally flows from yourself, Liberality towards them who, flying hither to maintain a good conscience, come naked of all worldly substance (*a*). What a contrast is French popery in power, supported by grenadiers and dragoons, to the sentiments and resolution of the empress queen of Hungary, though herself a zealous Roman catholic? does she not in her favourable Rescript, concerning Protestants in her hereditary

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dominions,

(*a*) By public advertisement, such as are disposed to relieve their necessities have been desired to send their contributions to Sir Richard Hoare and company in Fleet-street, or to Sir Joseph and Sir Thomas Hankey in Fenchurch-street. At this time benefactions are greatly wanted, emigrants coming daily; and seventy three of the persecuted for righteousness sake have been relieved in about the space of two months, since last December.—“Happy are they who are blessed with a sympathizing heart, that most excellent and heavenly gift! happier who justify their Christian sentiment by their Generous Liberality!”

dominions, avow sentiments and resolutions diametrically opposite to French Popery *? “ She declares it is with Sincerity acknowledged by her, “ That violence in matters belonging to faith cannot be a means to convince men: convictions “ must be the work of divine grace, joined to instructions dictated by meekness and patience, and “ strengthened by the example of good works, “ which ought to be christianly extended to all that “ stand in need of them without distinction of religion. This is the sense in which, adds she, we “ have used and shall use the text, *Compel them to come in*; and to that end we shall occasionally “ employ our finances in favour of such of our “ subjects as are not of our religion, yet behave “ peaceably and dutifully. All zeal that deviates “ from these principles shall ever be disapproved by “ us, &c. None of our subjects, not even the most “ obstinate in refusing to hear good instruction, “ shall be molested in their persons, or estates, “ while they behave as dutiful subjects, and pay “ due obedience to lawful authority.” Is not all this well spoken?—I detain you no longer, but remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.

July 1744.

ON the 5th instant, the garrisons in Lower Languedoc, of several villages, being gone to Nîmes to be reviewed, the Protestants embraced this favourable opportunity, and the LORD'S SUPPER was administered without any molestation. The same

* See this more at large in the Gentleman's Magazine.

same happiness did not attend the brethren of St Hypolite of Catton : on returning from their religious assembly, the garrison of St Jean, &c. fell upon them, fired, and put them to flight, seized three men, and five women, with their little children. The children were soon after baptized in the church of St Maurice by the Prior, the soldiers waiting till the ceremony was performed.

The Protestants near St Foi, on breaking up their assembly, were attacked by a party of dragoons, (about sixty) who fired among them, wounded one man, and ended his life with their bayonets. Forty were taken prisoners, among whom was a young man, a student for the ministry, who by some means was happily delivered, or he would have fallen a prey into the hands of the Jesuits. N. B. Other accounts of this assembly inform, that five or six were killed on the spot, fourteen or fifteen wounded, and fortyfive taken prisoners. [The churches of Saintonge have been plundered and miserably used, rebaptizing all their children which had been baptized by Protestant ministers.]

At the latter end of this month, an assembly near St Ambrose in the Cevennes was surprised by a party of dragoons, who fired upon them, and seized several of both sexes, who yet remain in prison : as, on the 17th instant, an officer and five gentlemen of Albigeois were arrested ; but whether for holding assemblies, or performing baptisms, is not known. The storm fell also upon Upper Languedoc in this month. On the 10th instant, information being made that an assembly had been held near Revel, the archers, accompanied by some horsemen, arrested the Messieurs la Serre, and the

the two Misses Sarrat Ferrieres, who were carried to the castle of Ferrieres. Mr Faure, a young gentleman of family, and lieutenant in the army, escaped under favour of the night, but has since been taken and carried to the prisons of Montpellier. On the 19th of this month the archers of Albi, supported by a detachment of dragoons, came to the houses of several, whose names may be produced, and arrested several persons. These searches spread such terror, and so great consternation in the city of Castres, that neighbouring towns were filled with those who fled for fear. A heavy tax is laid on the inhabitants of Cournonsec, near Montpellier, for refusing to adorn the fronts of their houses on the festival of the sacrament, and Mr Andre is imprisoned, where he is to remain till the tax is paid.

August.

On the 4th of this month, St Dominic's day, (a worthy president for such an exploit) a general search for ministers was made by the troops in Lower Languedoc. A great number of houses were narrowly searched, both in the cities and country villages. Several of our brethren [Protestant ministers] were in the most imminent danger; some escaped almost miraculously (a). At this

(a) The special care of divine providence in protecting the ministers, when so narrowly sought for by thousands of powerful enemies, demands the most religious attention. That after all the sudden search, but one should be found, and he so qualified for, and carried so gloriously through martyrdom, to the establishment of the faithful, and the confusion of their persecutors, what less is it than a miraculous attestation in favour of the persecuted?

this time, the Reverend Mr la Fage, who had been in the office of the ministry about two years, was arrested; the soldiers entered the house where he was, and he could not be concealed; on endeavouring to escape, he was shot at, and the balls lodged in his shoulder, and he and all the family where he lodged were made prisoners. Being condemned to be hanged, he finished his course gloriously at Montpellier on the 17th instant, after having gained the esteem of those who saw him in prison, by his discourses and firmness: greatly affecting by his death all those, without distinction, that were spectators of it. Every body was extremely edified by his piety, his meekness, his resignation to the divine will, and by his resolution and firmness. The greatest part of his judges could not condemn him without blushing. Immediately after the sentence, two of them fell dangerously ill: one of whom declared, that he would chuse rather a hundred times to lay down his office than to give his consent any more to such a sentence (a). Those that were taken with Mr la Fage were not tried at that time, but their estates are seized, and the district of the place where he was arrested has been condemned to be fined a thousand crowns, the Protestants being the persons to pay that sum, and it has been given among the soldiers. About this time near Uzez, the Sieurs Richard and Stephen Martin were arrested, being near a farm where one of them was fishing, and the other a hunting. They made some motion to withdraw when they perceived the soldiers,

(a) We are informed that one of the judges died of the illness which he was seized with.

diers, which inclined the latter to believe they concealed a minister. [They are still in prison at Ufez. Letter of the 26th of October last]. About this time, endeavours were used to arrest the wife of a minister, but they missed her, and she is fled. The writer of the above, a Protestant minister, says, in another letter, that himself very narrowly escaped the same end that Mr la Fage met with, and relates the providence by which he was rescued; having no sooner left his house, than it was immediately surrounded by a numerous detachment, which made the most diligent search for him. Since this, adds he, my day is turned into night: he adds, We have great reason to fear our enemies will exert all their power to disturb and molest, since the bishop of Alais has sent a letter for that purpose to all the curates of his diocese. And, speaking of the cruel methods which are daily used to destroy the Protestant churches, he says, Never before have they been so artfully attacked, beset on every side, and ravaged from every quarter; and, it will be impossible to bear up under this heavy calamity, unless sustained and upheld by God himself. Let us therefore, adds he, incessantly offer up our prayers to him for assistance, and perhaps, sooner than we expect, a happy providence may change the awful scene.

September.

In the beginning of this month, twelve persons in the diocese of Beziers were arrested; four whereof were of Bedarieux, &c. They were all carried to prison. The names of nine of this number are specified; among which are, the two Misses
Triol:

Triol: all for attending on worshipping assemblies; and four men of the twelve have been condemned to the gallies. The officer that commands the detachment of Montareng, for a long time past, has made his soldiers patrol every hour of the night, especially near those houses where there are any Sick to be visited, and Children to be baptized. In one of those rounds a physician named Cabrol was arrested, they taking him to be the minister of Usez, who is also of Montareng.

In another French letter, bearing date the 18th of September, it is said, the county of Bedarieux had enjoyed great tranquillity: our enemies resolved to revenge themselves for the uneasiness which this calm had given them. Very lately troops have been quartered in that country, and they have employed them, not only in putting a stop to Divine service there, but in seizing twelve persons, who were immediately carried prisoners to Beziers. Upon this account a great number of people have been alarmed, and abandoned their habitations. We now and then assemble in the —, but if a greater number of troops are sent, as there is room to fear, shall be obliged to suspend all public worship. Notwithstanding all the danger, we find, by this letter, that a fair opportunity offering, a Protestant minister convoked an assembly, a few miles from Nismes, about the 10th of this month. "It consisted of three or four hundred persons, and every thing passed quietly, Thanks be to God!" Forry five children were baptized, and ten couple married, a few days before, by the minister who preached. Another

other minister writes in a letter of the 19th instant, A good pilot should not abandon his vessel, because of the violence of the tempest that agitates it, &c. He says, We endeavour, as much as our duty will permit, not to put them [the troops] into motion, and we do this more out of tenderness to our flocks——than upon our own account, who are used to pursuits, (*i. e.* to be pursued) and rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer for our common faith.

October.

From a letter of the 2d of this month we learn, that upon the departure of a regiment of infantry that had been quartered in the mountains, and the march of the dragoons from the plains towards Carcassone, to be reviewed, the Protestants laid hold on that opportunity, and four assemblies were convoked on the plain: this being discovered, and informed against, occasioned great persecution. Hereupon 160 persons of the city of Castres, 10 of Revel, 30 of Realmont, and as many of Roquecourbe were informed against, and the enemies set all their wits at work in order to arrest them, and with sad success. The names of many sent to prison are notified; and it is added, An infinite number of others are wandering about in the country: we hear of nothing else but Detachments and Captures. May it please God to pity his people!

From another of the 13th instant, a detachment from the town of Anduze, (a town in Languedoc, on the river Gardon) which was sent out on the 5th of this month, consisting of a company

of grenadiers, and of—, surrounded the house of Mr Bastide, betwixt eight and nine at night; their officer at the head entred in order to take the Mother, and to carry the Daughter to a Nunnery. The house was searched with all possible exactness, but they were spending the evening in another family. The soldiers having missed their prey, returned the next day at night, between ten and eleven, it raining so hard as to make the river Gardon overflow its banks. They searched the house a second time very strictly; but prudence had made the persons sought for retire to a place of security. They are fled, and their estate, which consisted in land, has been set to sale. The writer, who is a minister, adds, I am still in the unalterable resolution, not to leave the churches, except my infirmities should put it out of my power to give them further assistance. He proceeds, and relates the distress that the church of Sauve (a town in the diocese of Nismes) is fallen into. On the 6th instant, the Protestant minister had given notice of an assembly at Constatas, contrary to an agreement of suspending public worship, till we could have hopes of a greater calm, and security for the church. As he was just beginning his sermon, an express came to give notice, that a large detachment was gone out of the town. The majority of the votes were for leading the assembly to the top of the mountain, to shelter them from all surprise. He observes, that this country is the most secure of any in Europe, and the Zeal of the Faithful very great. They by way of precaution placed a Centry something forward upon a rock, which was as inaccessible

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sible as a Citadel, from whence all the plain as far as St Hypolite, could be most exactly discovered. The detachment advanced, and at the distance of a quarter of a league perceived the Centry upon the rock. The officer that commanded, here-upon sent a grenadier to Suave, and remained as he was, till he was reinforced by a detachment as strong as the first, escorted by the Mayor, and the First Consul of the town. On this he marched forward, having formed his men into a battalion, as much as the roads would allow. Being come under the rock Citadel, from whence the centry did not stir a step, three grenadiers came from the main body unperceived, and forced him from off the mountain, climbing up under the cover of it, where never fox could have passed, and the main body marched forwards towards the right, and got within half a musket's shot of the back of the centry: they fired at him, and wounded him in the thigh, so that he fell. The grenadier that wounded him having found a horse, or mule, feeding in the vineyards, (the vintage being over) got up, and put the wounded man before him on his belly, as if he had been a sack of corn, after having made him suffer a thousand indignities, which humanity would blush at, upon seeing done to a brute. Doubtless, because they found him out to be a Profelyte, but he expired at a quarter of a league's distance from the town. The detachment, after having passed the rock, divided into several platoons, which took several By-Paths to return to the town. At musket's shot distance, they saw a young man coming out of his vineyard, walking a foot-pace; a grenadier

dier shot at and killed him. It is to be observed, says the writer, that the grenadier was under some particular obligations to this young man. Some hours after, they fetched away the body. A man that was gathering figs upon his own ground was also made prisoner; and when the detachment were re-assembled in the square of Suave, a soldier perceiving a young man there, said, I saw him on the mountain, and immediately the officer had him seized, and caused him to be put in prison with the other two, the living man, and him that was shot dead.

The letter closes with observing: the soldiers neglect nothing in order to surprise us. For these five months past I have been like the Shamoy, [the wild goat] shifting from one rock to another, tho' I might go into——where in many respects I should be more at quiet. But I must be an example to others, to have an eye to every thing that passes amongst my flock. In another letter of the 26th of this month—The 6th of this instant, four companies of the garrison of Nisines came at three o'clock in the morning to the wife's house of the worthy minister of the city, and searched it for two hours together, but to no purpose. Searches are very frequent, and are very troublesome to ministers, because they make places of retirement very scarce, and oblige them almost every night to ly abroad in the open field, or in some hole of a rock.

An account has been drawn up, and laid before some gentlemen in London, by Mr B——— P——— of his sufferings, which took their rise from his expressing his resentment against the

Curate

Curate [in England, Rector] of his parish, who had, during Mr B—— P——'s absence from his house, taken his child by force, and baptized it according to the rites of the church of Rome. The curate complained of him to the deputy, and a warrant was granted against him. He was after this accused, and, though innocent, condemned to death, as accessory to the murder of a woman who, by some person or persons, had been killed in prison. He appealed to the parliament of Thoulouse, and thereby was acquitted, and discharged from imprisonment. After some time, he was again ordered to be arrested; but he received private intelligence, and escaped. He says, "Immediately I embraced the favourable opportunity; left my family the very same day, and fled for refuge to this happy isle, where, by the kind Providence of God, I am safely arrived."

*Extracts of letters from the Reverend ***** of London. March the 8th 1755.*

"NEAR eighty are now in the gallsies, for their zeal for the pure worship of God, and the honour of the Redeemer; and a very great number groan in prisons and fetters, some of whom, being sick, have desired the prayers of the French congregations in London.—In Normandy more quiet is enjoyed; but in Languedoc things grow worse."

April.

"We have heard that in February last an assembly of Protestants being held for divine ser-

“ vice towards Bourdeaux, the enemy had notice
 “ of it, sent soldiers who fired upon the poor peo-
 “ ple, killed some of them, and took some pri-
 “ soners. The persecutions are going on in many
 “ other parts with great severity. The prisoners
 “ upon the gallies earnestly desire our prayers, and
 “ are sent from Marseilles to Toulon, where they
 “ are far from their friends, who used to give them
 “ some help now and then.”

July 1.

“ Some time ago a poor countryman of eighty
 “ years old was hanged for the sake of religion.
 “ By last letters we learn, that in Languedoc di-
 “ vine service is entirely ceased, the troops being
 “ in such manner disposed as to prevent all assem-
 “ blies.——In Guyenne some few assemblies
 “ were procured; but the soldiers were sent after
 “ them, fired upon them, and made many pri-
 “ soners. In Poitou and Saintonge no public wor-
 “ ship; very rare in Normandy. Those in the
 “ gallies are not yet set at liberty, nor those in pri-
 “ sons, which are in great numbers in Languedoc
 “ and Poitou. Since March last fifty emigrants
 “ have been relieved by the society in London,
 “ and many are daily coming; so that the society
 “ stands in great need of charitable benefactions.”

*The following is here inserted to shew the very spring
 of the persecutions in Languedoc since March 1754*

March 5, 1754, near Nismes.

THE marshal duke of R—u arrived here at the
 end of January last, to hold the states of the
 pro-

province. You know in such a case it is customary for the clergy to present the king with a free gift. At this time that cruel and powerful body, taking advantage of the circumstance, violently declaimed against the Protestants and their pastors, and concluded with a demand for the total ruin of both. After repeated solicitations and odious invectives, seeing they could not obtain all that they desired, at last they forced out from the marshal a decree which forbids all manner of assemblies, orders the troops which are in the province to fall, even to fire upon the Protestants, to seize every one of them who shall be seen in the assemblies; as well as those who should convoke them, and any private person who shall give them any asylum or protection. That decree, dated February the 16th, was some few days after made public, and followed by an instruction directed to all the commanding officers of the troops; it contained 19 articles, whereby they are taught in what manner to proceed, in order both to surprize the assemblies, and to apprehend the ministers, and surely to conduct them to places of safety. Moreover, the troops are ordered to fire upon the Protestants whenever the commanding officer shall think fit. All the children that have not been baptised in the Romish church, and all the people that have not been married there, are also ordered to be rebaptised and remarried. The commissaries of the several parishes have begun to take an exact list of them, and every Sunday detachments are ordered to go every where in the country in pursuit of the assemblies.

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